Loktak Downstream H.E. Project

4051. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Loktak Downstream H.E. Project has not commenced even now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the service position of qualified local engineers to the works of Loktak Downstream H.E. Project; and

(d) the target date of completion of the work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Loktak Downstream H.E. Project (90 MW) in Manipur was accorded investment sanction by the Government of India in December, 1999.

Work at the project has not been able to take off due to the adverse security environment and problems encountered in the acquisition of land. Local villagers had obtained a stay order from the High Court at Guwahati against the setting up of a fresh Committee by the Government of Manipur to go into the issue of land and crop compensation arising out of the execution of the Project. The Stay has since been vacated and a Committee has been constituted to assess the quantum of compensation in lieu of land and crops.

Ministry of Power has been following up with the State Government to provide requisite security and arrange for accommodation to be provided to the security personnel. It had been decided, in consultation with Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur that all arrangements would be tied up early so that work commences by 1st October, 2001.

(c) At present, there are seven qualified engineers belonging to the State of Manipur posted at Loktak Downstream H.E. Project.

(d) The project is expected to be completed within six and a half years from the date of start of work.

Use of Ganga water by NTPC, Kahalgaon in Bihar

†4052. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the Ganga water in terms of gallon being used per day by NTPC, Kahalgaon for power generation and other project works;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the permission to use Ganga water has been taken from the Department of Water Resources, Government of Bihar;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Bihar is being paid in the form of revenue or other financial benefit in return of the use of the water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Kahalgaon draws approximately 1.06 lakh cubic meter (279 lakh US Gallon) water from Ganga river daily for the generation of electricity and other project works.

(b) Necessary permission to draw water from Ganga has been obtained from the erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation, Government of India.

(c) and (d) Water Cess is being paid for the water used by NTPC, Kahalgaon as per rates prescribed by the concerned authorities in Bihar. Water Cess paid to Bihar State Pollution Control Board for the last two years are as follows :

Year	**Water Cess Paid**
1999-2000	Rs. 18.73 lakhs
2000-2001	Rs. 19.67 lakhs

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Shifting the power grid office to Shillong

4053. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that power grid office of North-Eastern Region at Guwahati is not attended by higher officials;

(b) whether it is a fact that these officials are working mostly from Shillong;

(c) whether it is a fact that they are trying to shift it from Guwahati to Shillong; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for shifting of this office from Guwahati ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) After the completion of the Kathalguri Transmission Project, the manpower posted at Guwahati office